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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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INFORMATION ON CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN YUGOSLAVIA

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The forced labor camp which used to be in Sarajevo was transferred in August 1950. The quarters, which were in six or seven wooden barracks, were dismantled and transported elsewhere.

From 100 to 150 political and ordinary prisoners of various nationalities (but not Italians) were quartered in these barracks while they were building a canal. This last is reported from hearsay.

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The concentration camp for political prisoners sentenced to forced labor is located northeast of Zagreb. The camp is composed of five barracks, where about 350 prisoners are kept. It is surrounded by a double wire fence and guarded by sentries from the People's Militia under the command of a noncommissioned officer. These sentries are quartered in one of the camp barracks. Prisoners are assigned various kinds of manual labor. The source worked in the UDB machine shop. Camp food consists of 600 grams of cornbread a day and barley soup twice a day. Prisoners work 8 hours per day and receive 15 dinars per day.

It is said that a US and a British officer, who were sentenced for running over some Yugoslav citizens with an automobile and killing them, are still imprisoned in Lepoglava Prison.

Concentration camps for the detention of political prisoners are located in Novo Mesto, Maribor, and Cooevje [Kooevje?].

Requests by Italian "optees" [to leave Yugoslavia?] must be presented to the People's Militia. Requests are often rejected as many as three times. When a request is refused, it must be presented to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Zagreb through the People's Militia. If the request is again refused, it must be presented to the Supreme Council of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Zagreb. To avoid losing time, requests are to be accompanied by stamps, legal documents, stamped [identification?] card, etc. "Optees" are under constant surveillance. Documents are valid for 6 months and must be renewed at the end of that time.

About 2,000 "optees" still live in Zadar. Many requests [to return to Italy?] have been refused. During the last 2 months, the authorities have asked the "optees" to sign a document stating that their requests have been refused. Many have refused to sign for fear of unpleasant consequences.

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